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(Washington, DC) -- Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) voted for the passage of H.R. 1262, Water Quality Investment Act. This major bill makes key investments to improve water quality and could create approximately 480,000 jobs over the next five years.

After years of underfunding by Congress, this bill authorizes a robust level of funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This bill authorizes a total of \$13.8 billion for wastewater infrastructure over the next five years - thereby creating about 480,000 jobs over the five-year period. Under this bill Missouri is authorized to receive an additional \$57,264,883 annually for Clean Water State Revolving Fund for five years totaling \$381,596,289.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides low-interest loans to local communities for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and other water pollution abatement projects. Since it was created in 1987, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund has been the primary source of federal funding for wastewater infrastructure projects.

**"This is an important step to increase investment in wastewater infrastructure, and to reduce the cost of constructing and maintaining that infrastructure,"** Congressman Carnahan said. **"This legislation is designed to begin closing the approximately \$3.2 billion to \$11.1 billion annual gap that exists between wastewater infrastructure needs and current levels of spending."**

A recent report from the EPA warns, "Without continued improvements in wastewater treatment infrastructure, future population growth will erode away many of the Clean Water Act achievements."

A key reason that the nation now faces a clean water crisis is that so many cities and communities in Missouri and throughout the U.S. are dealing with aging water infrastructure. Cities like St. Louis still rely on sewer pipes that were installed more than 100 years ago to collect and treat domestic sewage.

This bill also addresses the problem of sewer overflows - and will protect lives, preserve the environment, and help cities and states pay for modernizing their aging sewer infrastructure. This bill authorizes \$1.8 billion to aid cities and states that find building or improving sewer infrastructure financially impossible without help from the federal government.

**"Many of our municipalities utilize sewer systems constructed as far back as when Abraham Lincoln was president,"** Carnahan said. **"This out of date infrastructure is deteriorating, and as a result, local governments are often unable to stop raw sewage**

**and untreated waste from flowing into streets, basements, rivers and lakes."**

Despite Republican efforts this bill includes Davis-Bacon protections requiring contractors for projects that receive federal funds to pay the prevailing local wages and benefits to employees.

Congressman Carnahan sits on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where this bill originated in addition to the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee.